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For immediate release

MALAYSIA PROUD HOST OF THE 61ST CONFERENCE OF DIRECTORS GENERAL OF CIVIL AVIATION, ASIA AND PACIFIC REGION

KUALA LUMPUR – Malaysia is proud to host the 61st Conference of Directors General of Civil Aviation, Asia and Pacific Region (DGCA/61) from 7 to 11 September 2026, bringing together more than 500 participants from 35 countries for one of the region's most significant civil aviation gatherings.

Hosted by the Civil Aviation Authority of Malaysia (CAAM), the conference convenes Directors General of Civil Aviation, senior government officials, regulators, international organisations and aviation industry leaders from across the Asia and Pacific region.

DGCA/61 is held under the theme "Smart Skies: Emerging Technologies for Safe, Secure, Sustainable and Efficient Aviation." The theme reflects the aviation community's shared commitment to harnessing innovation and emerging technologies while ensuring that the highest standards of safety, security, sustainability and operational efficiency remain at the heart of the sector's continued growth.

The opening ceremony was officiated by the Minister of Transport, YB Loke Siew Fook, and attended by senior leaders of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), including Mr. Toshiyuki Onuma, President of the ICAO Council; Mr. Juan Carlos Salazar, Secretary General of ICAO; and Mr. Tao Ma, Regional Director of the ICAO Asia and Pacific Office.

Over the five-day conference, delegates will deliberate on key priorities shaping the future of civil aviation, including aviation safety and air navigation, aviation security and facilitation, environmental sustainability, economic development, capacity-building and regional cooperation.

Discussions will also focus on the responsible adoption of emerging technologies, digitalisation and innovation to strengthen regulatory capabilities, improve operational resilience and support the sustainable growth of air transport across the region.

The conference provides an important platform for ICAO Member States and aviation stakeholders to exchange knowledge, present working papers, share best practices

and identify coordinated approaches to addressing common and emerging challenges. Outcomes from the conference will contribute towards advancing ICAO's strategic objectives and strengthening the region's collective ability to respond to the evolving aviation landscape.

YB Loke Siew Fook, Minister of Transport, said Malaysia's hosting of DGCA/61 reflects the country's commitment to supporting stronger regional and international cooperation in civil aviation.

"As aviation continues to evolve, innovation must be pursued with a clear and unwavering commitment to safety, security, sustainability and efficiency. DGCA/61 provides an important platform for the region to exchange perspectives, strengthen cooperation and develop practical approaches to the opportunities and challenges presented by emerging technologies."

Dato' Captain Norazman Mahmud, Chief Executive Officer of CAAM, said the strong participation in DGCA/61 demonstrates the region's shared commitment to building a safer, more resilient and future-ready aviation ecosystem.

"Malaysia is honoured to welcome aviation leaders and delegates from across the Asia and Pacific region. As host, CAAM looks forward to facilitating meaningful discussions that translate technological progress into tangible improvements for regulators, industry and the travelling public."

Malaysia's selection as host of DGCA/61 reinforces its active role within the international civil aviation community and its commitment to strengthening regional collaboration. It also provides an opportunity for Malaysia to showcase its growing aviation capabilities and continued efforts to modernise the sector in line with international standards and global developments.

Through DGCA/61, Malaysia remains committed to working closely with ICAO, Member States and industry partners to advance a safe, secure, sustainable and efficient civil aviation system for the benefit of the region and the global aviation community.

About Civil Aviation Authority of Malaysia

The Civil Aviation Authority of Malaysia (CAAM) is the national aviation regulator responsible for ensuring the safety, security and efficiency of Malaysia's civil aviation sector. CAAM also provides air navigation services and safeguards aviation consumer rights in accordance with applicable national requirements and international standards.

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